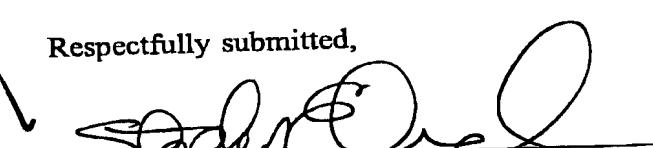


such claims.

Further, Applicant respectfully requests that the finality of the Official Action dated June 22, 1998 be withdrawn for the following reasons. In the Official Action dated October 29, 1997 the previous Examiner rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §112. Specifically, the Examiner stated that claim 7 was mis-descriptive because the claim called for counter springs having "a first end closer to said second critical point and a second end further from said second critical point", which the Examiner contended was contrary to Figure 4 of the Application. To overcome this rejection, Applicant's undersigned attorney amended claim 7 to delete the recitation of how the ends of the springs are connected.

In the October 29, 1997 Official Action, the previous Examiner also rejected claim 7 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,419,227 to Lavineway. In Applicant's response, Applicant pointed out the differences between the Lavineway patent and the device claimed by claim 7. In the recent Official Action dated June 22, 1998, the previous Examiner apparently agreed with Applicant and withdrew the rejection of claim 7 based on the Lavineway patent. However, the Examiner issued a new rejection based on a new piece of prior art and made the rejection final stating that Applicant's Amendment necessitated a new grounds of rejection. However, as discussed with Examiner Schupe, and as noted above, the amendments to claim 7 were solely made to overcome the Examiner's previous §112 rejection and in no way necessitated the new grounds of rejection presented in the June 22, 1998 Official Action. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the finality of the Official Action dated June 22, 1998, and examine the previously withdrawn claims.

Respectfully submitted,


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